

THE WELL-READ LIBRARIAN: LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

by Rita Barsun



PARTNERSHIP FUNDAMENTALS

Miller, William, and Rita M. Pellen, eds. Joint-Use Libraries. Special issue, *Resource Sharing and Information Networks* 15, no.1/2 (2001).

Nine case studies of successful joint-use libraries. Exploration of team-based strategies for planning and development. Accomplishments, challenges, barriers, and weaknesses. The entire issue is also available as a book: Miller, William, and Rita M. Pellen, eds. Joint-Use Libraries. New York: Haworth Press. 2003, with chapters listed at <http://www.haworthpressinc.com/store/product.asp?sku=4939>

Breeding, Marshall. "The Benefits of Library Partnerships." *Information Today* 19, no. 6 (2002): 42-43.

Two approaches to libraries' sharing of collections: a combined "virtual" catalog using the Z39.50 search-and-retrieval software, and a union catalog using a single automation system. Advantages and disadvantages of each.

Francisco, Grace, Kathryn Covier Hannah, Shelly G. Keller, Joan Waters, and Patricia M. Y. Wong. (2001). *Joint ventures: The promise, power and performance of partnering*. Washington, D.C.: National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities, Institute of Museum and Library Services. ERIC Document 459854. (154 pages)

Case studies of successful public library joint ventures, including how to develop, evaluate, and promote partnerships.

Siggins, Jack. "Staff and Training Issues: Optimizing the Potential of Library Partnerships." *Journal of Library Administration* 21, no. 1/2 (1995): 183-191.

Three areas in which resource sharing or partnerships place stress on staff (education, attitude, and skills) and suggestions for addressing each. Impact of

partnerships on the working relationship between professional and support staff. Topics to be included in training programs.

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES & THE COMMUNITY

Gilbert, Gail R. "New Approaches to Funding and Community Support: Forming Partnerships to Serve All at the University of Louisville." *College and Research Libraries News* 60, no. 5 1999): 358-359, 364, 381.

Formation of an Information Advisory Council by an urban university library to assist with a goal of expanding partnerships with businesses in the community. Qualifications and expectations for members of the council.

Hope, Charity B., and Christina A. Peterson. "The Sum Is Greater than the Parts: Cross-Institutional Collaboration for Information Literacy in Academic Libraries." *Journal of Library Administration* 36, no.1/2 (2002): 21-38.

Examples of collaboration among academic libraries through professional organizations and "cross-institutional" partnerships of academic libraries with other types of libraries. Suggestions about how administrators can and should promote and encourage collaborative efforts by their support, advocacy, and leadership.

Wilding, Thomas L. "External Partnerships and Academic Libraries." *Library Management* 23, no. 4/5 (2002): 199-202.

Good introduction to the topic of partnerships, including this definition: "those relationships, usually formal in nature, entered into by two more or less equal parties who have a mutual interest in accomplishing something and a mutual agreement to bear the costs of its accomplishments...."

Different kinds of partnerships, from consortia and

cooperative cataloging among libraries to fee-based arrangements with the private sector. Management issues to be aware of and suggested techniques for dealing with them.

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES & PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Conaway, Peggy. "One Reference Service for Everyone? Designing the Service for a Combined Public/Academic Library." *Library Journal* 125, no. 12 (2000): 42-44.

The two-year discussion and planning process that culminated in 2003 in an operating agreement for the library shared by the San Jose (California) Public Library and San Jose State University. Description of the shadowing project and the surveys used to resolve differences about the design and delivery of reference services, and the resulting recommendations.

Freeman, Alan. "An Innovative Library Partnership." *Planning for Higher Education* 30, no. 1 (2001): 20-26.

Additional details of the San Jose joint-use library planning and development process, including financial issues and how opposition from both campus and community was addressed. Summary of lessons learned.

Lubans, John Jr. "A Portrait of Collaborative Leadership: Donald E. Riggs and Nova Southeastern University Joint-Use Library." *Library Administration and Management* 16, no. 4 (2002): 176-178.

The benefits of the partnership between the Broward County (Florida) and Nova Southeastern University and the process that led to completion of the project.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES & COMMUNITIES

Dempsey, Mary A. "The Public Library as an Educational and Cultural Partner." *Catholic Library World* 72, no. 1 (2001): 12-17.

The many partnerships between the Chicago Public Library and the city's cultural and educational institutions; e.g., the botanical garden, museums, the Ravinia Music Festival, schools. Describes four elements needed to make such partnerships successful.

Eiselstein, June. (May/June 2003). College access programs and services. *Public Libraries* 42(3): 184-187.

Six examples of public libraries that house programs to help low-income and underserved members

of the community learn about opportunities for them in continuing their education at the postsecondary level. Need for collaboration with area colleges or universities and with area schools, for sufficient funding sources, and for broad-based community support.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES & PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Auld, Hampton, ed. "Combined School-public Library Facilities: Opinions, Case Studies, and Questions to Consider." Special issue, Part 1, *Public Libraries* 41, no. 5 (2002): 248-255.

Titles of the articles include "Get it in Writing!," "What One Community Says about Joint Use," "Timberland's Big Adventure," "The Devil Is in the Details," and "Double Your Fun with a Combination Public-high School Library."

—. "Combined School-Public Library Facilities: Opinions, Case Studies, and Questions to Consider." Special issue, Part 2, *Public Libraries* 41, no. 6 (2002): 310-316.

Articles include "Is This a Real Library?," "The Three Cs of a Successful Joint Library Project," "Don't Do It!" and "Partnerships: The Wave of Today."

Fitzgibbons, Shirley A. "School and Public Library Relationships: Déjà vu or New Beginnings." *Journal of Youth Services in Libraries* 14, no. 3 (2001): 3-7.

Brief history of school-public library partnerships and studies about such efforts. Barriers to success, such as staffing and resources. Recommendations for successful cooperation.

Ziarnik, Natalie Reif. *School and Public Libraries: Developing the Natural Alliance*. Chicago: American Library Association. 2003.

Sample chapter headings and subheadings illustrate the value of this text:

- Everyday Practice: A How-to Guide – Initiating Contact, Working Together for the First Time, Continuing Contact
- Grants – Sources of Grants, Collaboration for Grant Efforts, Resources for Grant Seekers
- Sharing Resources – General Protocol for Teachers and Librarians,
- Homework Tips for Teachers (to make students' trips to the public library more rewarding), Alternatives to Assignment Alerts

PARTNERSHIPS IN SUPPORT OF YOUTH LITERACY & LIBRARY USE

Farmer, Lesley S. Johnson. "Providing Reference Services for Young Adults: School and Public Librarian Partnerships." *The Reference Librarian* 59 (1997): 153-162.

An "inventory" of ways to build relationships. Steps to effect coalition building and a model of a coalition made up of school, public, academic (including community college), and special libraries.

Kacena, Carolyn. Helping Youth make a difference. *Texas Library Journal* 76 no. 4 (2000): 146-148.

A summer program to provide job and social skills to challenged youth. Details of the program, including work assignments in the library, social activities, Web scavenging experiences, and the development by students of an Internet "yearbook." Benefits to students as well as to the library. The 1999 yearbook: <http://www7.tamu-commerce.edu/you/gperciak/youbook99/youbook99pm/youbook.htm>

Kudlay, Robert. Orienting neighborhood youth to an academic library: Creating campus-community connections. *The Reference Librarian* 67/68 (1999): 111-130.

Helpful, detailed recounting of the planning for and implementation of a program designed to address the influx of neighborhood youth into an academic library.

Nichols, Janet W. "Sharing a Vision: Information Literacy Partnerships (K-16)." *College and Research Libraries* 62, no. 3 (2001): 275-277.

A brief article with information about a pilot information literacy project between an academic library and two nearby high schools. The planning process, staff development workshops, feedback from participants, and a summary of the important steps in the process.

WEB RESOURCES

The ALA Community Partnership Toolkit.
<http://library.austincc.edu/staff/inavarro/CommunityPartnerships/Toolkit.html>.

An outstanding online guide for any librarian considering a partnership.

Examples of the FAQs include necessary components of good partnerships, guidelines for partnerships among libraries and with other entities, steps to follow, examples and scenarios.

American Library Association. "Sister Libraries."
http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Other_Groups_and_Organizations/Sister_Libraries/Sister_Libraries.htm.

Tips for establishing programs to foster international relations among libraries. Several examples of successful sister library programs.

Feldstein, Sarah. "Expanding the Capacity of the Public Library: Partnerships with Community Based Environmental Groups." *Electronic Green Journal* 6 (1996). <http://egj.lib.uidaho.edu/egj06/feld.html>.

Case studies of partnerships in environmental information.

Institute of Museum and Library Services. "Museum-library Collaboration." http://www.imls.gov/closer/cls_arch.htm#C.

Includes an Indiana art teaching project, Indiana Teachers Redraw Lesson Plans with Art Databases.

Kesselman, Martin. "An Outline of Cooperative International Partnerships for Sci-Tech Libraries." 1999.
<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s7/p1994/cooplib.htm>.

Helpful information applicable to a broad range of partnerships, not just those entered into by scientific-technical libraries. Three examples of such partnerships. Nice broadly topical bibliography, including online resources.

Madison Gas and Electronic. "Library Partnerships."
<http://www.mge.com/community/library.htm>.

Interesting example of a relationship between a community energy company and public libraries.

Reist, Aynne, and Laura Highlander. "Joint-use libraries." <http://www.unt.edu/slis/students/projects/5320/reist.htm>.

Helpful section titled "Areas to Consider" includes mission statements, collection development, censorship, general policies, boundaries, security, library design, administration, staffing, hours of operation, annual evaluation, and advantages/disadvantages.

University of Connecticut Libraries. "Library Partnerships." <http://www.lib.uconn.edu/about/partnerships>

Links to a document with a guide for forming new partnerships, criteria for reviewing partnerships, and a form for a proposal.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. "Combined School & Public Libraries: Guidelines for Decision Makers." <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlcl/pld/comblibs.html>

Lengthy document providing information on the "legality and desirability" of combined school-public libraries. Addresses topics such as the legal basis, missions, issues to be considered, alternatives for improving services, a feasibility checklist, and a sample master agreement.

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